

SOUTH CAROLINA.

A DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNT OF THE GEORGETOWN RIOT.

WAR BETWEEN COLORED FACTIONS—THE TOWN OCCUPIED BY ARMED NEGROES—SEVERAL PERSONS WOUNDED.

From the Charleston (S. C.) News, Aug. 17.

On Saturday we published a brief account of the beginning of a riot between the opposing negro factions in Georgetown. Since then additional particulars have been received. The town at the last accounts was entirely at the mercy and in the possession of a mob of mad negro savages who were shooting at each other with the greatest possible gusto. A few words of explanation will enable the people of this civilized country to understand the situation, and to appreciate the beauties of radical reformation in this State. The Republican Party in Georgetown County is composed of ignorant negroes. One faction is led by W. H. Jones, a noisy negro, who holds the position of State Senator until 1876, but who seems to be desirous of perpetuating his political power with a prospective eye to the office of Adjutant General of the State, which office is to be filled in the coming election. The opposing faction is led by James A. Bowley, a member of the last House of Representatives and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who, in two years, made a handsome fortune of \$50,000 or \$60,000 on a salary of \$600 a year. Bowley uses his money in the campaign, and Jones, who seems not to be quite so flush, but who is Colonel of the Militia, uses the guns, so that the sinews of war seem to be about equally divided. What position the two leaders occupy in relation to the gubernatorial canvass does not seem to be very clearly understood. Both have been bellowing very loudly for reform, but which one wants to reform with Moses, or which one to reform with Chamberlain, has not yet been ascertained. Ever since the campaign opened these two lights of South Carolina Republicanism have been making things hot for the decent people of the county. On Wednesday last a convention was called to meet at Georgetown to nominate delegates to the State Republican Nominating Convention. The Georgetown Times explains that "two calls were made for this convention—one by the Bowleyites at 12 o'clock, the other by the Jonesites at 2 o'clock. The court-house was the place. The object of one party was to forestall the other. The 2 o'clocks were determined to break up the 12 o'clocks, and the 12 o'clocks, if defeated, to completely annihilate the 2 o'clocks. So, at the roll of the drum and the foot of the fife both parties assembled at the ancient seat of justice, and entered into a meeting, or a miserable apology for a drunken broil or brutal row, whereby that same seat of justice was profaned, the public peace invaded, and decency violated." The bullets of the Bowley reformers proved to be too strong for the Jones reformers, and the latter incontinently fled, after several of them had been wounded. In the mêlée an unfortunate negro who was a bystander was mortally wounded by a pistol-shot. The Bowley reformers, being now masters of the situation, reorganized the meeting and nominated the following delegates: George Pawley, Peter Woodbury, Thomas Jandon, William Brunson, Paulus Jandon, Ben Myers, Philander Brownfield, Frank Penny, Anthony Jandon, and Planet Reynolds. In the meantime, the Times says, pump water had relieved the wounded scalps, old demijohns had fortified slackened courage, and the Jonesites went "to the rescue." But too late. The flush of victory had rendered the Bowleyites doubly strong, and the Jonesites were compelled to beat a retreat, hurling back in defiance the words, "Beware and wait." This was the situation at the close of Wednesday, and the following letters will give the reader an idea of the pandemonium which now began. It may be stated here that the population of the town of Georgetown consists of 748 whites and 2,772 colored. The population of the county is 2,776 whites and 13,358 colored persons.

ATTACK ON JONES' RESIDENCE—ATTEMPT TO KILL CONGRESSMAN RAINEY.

GEORGETOWN, Aug. 14.

Last night was enacted one of the most disgraceful scenes that has ever occurred in this State since the war. The rival factions of the Radical Party in this county have long been at enmity, W. H. Jones, our Senator, being the acknowledged leader of one party, and James A. Bowley, one of Representatives, the leader of the other. The Bowley crowd last night surrounded Jones' house and fired at it all night, wounding four men and kicking up a muss generally. This was kept up all night. This morning your reporter went up to Jones' residence, and what was his surprise to see not only the whole house, but the whole fence, completely riddled with bullets and slugs. Your readers can form no adequate idea of the looks of the house—the outside and inside just literally full of bullet-holes and bullets. The wonder is that every inmate was not killed; half of them were wounded as it was. This morning the Sheriff, aided by the Militia, had been arresting everyone connected with this riotous proceeding. The leading scoundrel, Bowley, is now in jail, together with several others. Woodbury, one of our colored wardens, who was also in the row, ran off to North Island, and up to this time he has not been caught. I believe I express the wish of every decent white and colored man in the town when I say that it is one hope that Bowley and his miserable crowd (especially Bowley) may spend a sweet time in the penitentiary. The town (even while I am writing) is in a great excitement. Everybody is on the go. I forgot to mention that they fired four shots at the United States mail; also their intention being to kill Congressman Rainey, he being expected to arrive last night by the mail stage.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT—THE TOWN AT THE MERCY OF THE MOB.

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Aug. 14.

For the last two or three days Georgetown has been the scene of the most outrageous disorder and confusion. The negroes, formed in two parties, under the leadership, the one of Senator W. H. Jones and the other of Representative James A. Bowley, have been waging a fierce fight against each other. Guns and pistols have been freely used, and one or two persons mortally wounded. Armed squads of negroes have been patrolling the streets, shouting and cursing. The peace of the town has been most violently disturbed, and there is every prospect of a dangerous riot. Last night, about 1 o'clock, the dwelling-house of Senator Jones was attacked and fired into by a crowd of Bowley men. The building was completely riddled with shot, and several persons inside were wounded. The firing continued at intervals from about 12 o'clock to 4 o'clock. Loud volleys at times were heard, and the whole community were alarmed. Negroes from the country, all well armed with plantation muskets, hoes, and rice-sickles, are now flocking into town from all quarters, screaming and hallooing, furious with excitement. Our inefficient county officers are powerless to quell the disturbance. There is no telling when the riot will end, or what fearful consequences may result therefrom. The whites are few and unorganized. There are no means of securing assistance in case of emergency. No troops are quartered near, and the means of communication with the town imperfect. The negroes are now incensed, mad, and furious; fortunately their fury is as yet directed only against one another, but who knows but that it soon may be directed against those whom they have been taught to consider their enemies, their former masters. An armed crowd is not easily quelled, and when that crowd consists of ignorant, brutal, highly excited, half savage negroes, there is more difficulty and great danger. Their savage impetuosity will lead them on beyond the object of their gathering, until they stop only when they have gone too far. This is what we have to fear. We here can only be prepared for the worst. This is a feature of Republican Government.

THE SITUATION ON SATURDAY.

From a gentleman who left Georgetown on Saturday we have obtained the following additional particulars:

The most furious persons in the mob were the negro women, who were armed with rice-hooks, scythes, and hoes, and whose language, as is usual on such occasions, was terrible. All Thursday and Friday armed negroes of the Jones faction were pouring into the town from the surrounding plantations on the river and on the islands. During the attack on Jones' house on Thursday night the house was guarded by a body of his adherents, whom the Bowley reformers drove off. They opened fire upon the house, and completely riddled it with their bullets. Jones himself was wounded in the thumb. A Dr. Thompson, a visitor from Philadelphia, was shot in the leg, and Henry Joy, one of the County Commissioners, was also wounded. On Friday morning, Jones paraded through the streets crying and cursing, followed by a few negroes. Later in the day he gathered a company of the Militia, of which he is the Colonel, and persuaded the Sheriff to take command of them. Bowley's house, which is one of the finest in the town, was at this time surrounded by an angry and excited crowd of Jonesites, consisting of men and women, who threatened death to any one who approached, and swore vengeance against Bowley. The Intendant of the town interviewed Jones, and got him to consent to withdraw his forces. He then attempted to get into Bowley's house, but the mob, who still surrounded it, swore that they would not let any white man enter it, and swore, too, with fearful imprecations, that they intended to burn it down. The Sheriff with the Militia, then marched to the house, and while the latter kept the crowd back, the Sheriff persuaded Bowley, as a means of saving his life, to surrender himself and go to jail. He did so, accompanied by his satellites, Geo. Pawley, Antony Jandon, and Ned Lawrence, (three colored Custom-house officers,) and followed by a mob of Jones' negroes, hooting, yelling, cursing, and swearing. The slogan of these savages was, "De Bowleyites hab offended our god, an' we gwine to hab vengeance." By their god they meant Jones, who is so regarded by them. On Friday evening the women brick-batted Bowley's house, smashing all the windows in, and wounding a colored man who tried to stop them. A colored

Methodist preacher came up soon afterward, and succeeded in quelling the disturbance in the immediate neighborhood. Before this the Jones mob was loudly swearing that if it could not burn Bowley's house in any other way, it would do it by burning the whole town. At 8 o'clock on Friday evening a rain and thunder storm came up and cooled off things a little, and by this means the night was passed without any demonstrations from either side. On Saturday morning, when our informant left, there was less rioting, but the excitement was intense and the anxiety on the part of the white citizens very great. It is reported that an attempt will be made to turn out the officer in charge of the armory and arsenal in the town, and place in charge another man who will allow the guns and ammunition to be used. Jones seems to have Gov. Moses on his side, for, about two weeks ago, some of his rioters were arrested and bound over to trial by a Trial Justice named C. R. Anderson. For this discharge of his duty Jones went to Columbia and procured from Moses the removal of Anderson, and the appointment of a man named J. Harvey Jones, who has been loafing around the county for some time.